SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Madam, the Bill will take cognisance of the biological parents. It will be paternity-based.

WELCOME TO THE HON. SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, I have an announcement to make.

We have with us, seated in the Special Box, Rt. Hon. Ms. Betty Boothroyd, Speaker of the House of Commons of United Kingdom, currently on a visit to our country as our honoured guest.

On behalf of the Members of the House and on my own behalf, I take pleasure in extending a hearty welcome to Rt. Hon. Ms. Betty Boothroyd and wish our distinguished guest an enjoyable and fruitful stay in our country. We hope that during her stay here, she would be able to see and learn more about our Parliamentary system, our country and our people, and that her visit to this country will further strengthen the friendly bonds that exist between India and the United Kingdom. Through her we convey our greeting and best wishes to the Parliament and the friendly people of United Kingdom.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS— Contd.

Question No. 321—Contd.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, should we have some family planning on this question? I have at least 50 names before me. It is enough, because all the questions are going to be same. Let us have some more questions, because everyday we take more than half-an-hour for one question. Question No. 322.

Problems faced by Indians working in Gulf countries

*322. SHRI M. A. BABY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 942 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 31st July 1997 and state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the problems faced by Indians working in Kuwait/UAE and other Gulf countries due to fradulent recruiting agencies and sponsors; and

(b) the details of steps taken by our Missions in these countries to help those Indians who have been cheated in various ways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA): A copy of the answer to the Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 942, dated 31.7.97 referred to in the above referred Starred Question is enclosed (*See* below as Statement-I)

(a) and (b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House. (Statement-II)

Statement-I

Repatriation of Malayali nurses from Kuwait

942. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Kerala Government has requested for the Central Government's intervention for repatriation of a large number of Malayali nurses who have taken refuge in the Indian Embassy in Kuwait;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what steps have been taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Chief Minister of Kerala in a letter dated 31.5.97 requested the Prime Minister of India's intervention to help the nurses, who had taken shelter in the Indian Embassy premises in Kuwait following a dispute with their employers. Of the 255 nursing assistants recruited for M/s Abdul Aziz Yousuf Al-Bora Kuwait through M/s.